



## **Administrative Office of the Courts**

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*For Immediate Release*

### **Judicial Nominating Commission releases names of nominees to fill vacant Family Court judgeship in Henry, Oldham and Trimble counties**

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 28, 2005 — The Judicial Nominating Commission, led by Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert, met today at the Henry County Courthouse in New Castle to choose nominees to replace Family Court Judge Paul Rosenblum who retired Dec. 6, 2004. The vacant circuit judgeship serves the 12th Judicial Circuit, Division II, which is comprised of Henry, Oldham and Trimble counties. Three attorneys were named as nominees to fill this vacancy: Crestwood attorney Timothy E. Feeley, Pewee Valley attorney Marshall V. Gaither and Goshen attorney Michael T. Pate.

#### **Timothy E. Feeley**

Feeley resides in Crestwood and maintains a solo practice in LaGrange that emphasizes civil legal services, including estate and family law matters, for small businesses and individuals. He holds a juris doctor from West Virginia University and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business. Feeley also serves as a Kentucky state representative for Jefferson and Oldham counties.

#### **Marshall V. Gaither**

Gaither lives and works in Pewee Valley and represents clients statewide. He is a sole practitioner who primarily serves plaintiffs in tort actions and small business owners in business-related litigation. He also focuses on domestic relations cases and estate disputes. Gaither earned both a juris doctor and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Louisville.

#### **Michael T. Pate**

Pate holds a juris doctor from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Bellarmine College. He resides in Goshen and maintains a solo practice in LaGrange where he represents clients in family law matters, practices criminal defense law in state district and circuit courts and federal district and appellate courts. He also represents debtors in federal bankruptcy proceedings in the Western and Eastern districts of Kentucky.

#### **Judicial Nominating Process**

When a judicial vacancy occurs, the executive secretary of the Judicial Nominating Commission publishes a notice of vacancy in the judicial circuit or the judicial district affected. Attorneys can recommend someone or nominate themselves. The names of the applicants are not released. Once nominations occur, the individuals interested in the position return a questionnaire to the Office

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of Chief Justice. Chief Justice Lambert then meets with the Judicial Nominating Commission to choose three nominees. Because the Kentucky Constitution requires that three names be submitted to the governor, in some cases the commission submits an attorney's name even though the attorney did not apply. A letter naming the three nominees is sent to Gov. Ernie Fletcher for review. The governor has 60 days to appoint a replacement and his office makes the announcement.

### **Circuit/Family Court**

Family Court is a division of Circuit Court, Kentucky's highest trial court level, and employs full-time judges with the same qualifications as those who serve other divisions of Circuit Court. Family Court jurisdiction includes dissolution of marriage; spousal support; child custody, support and visitation; paternity; adoption; domestic violence; termination of parental rights; and dependency, neglect and abuse. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in Frankfort is the administrative arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice and supports the activities of more than 3,400 court personnel, including the elected offices of justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC provides ongoing training and education to the state's judges.

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